

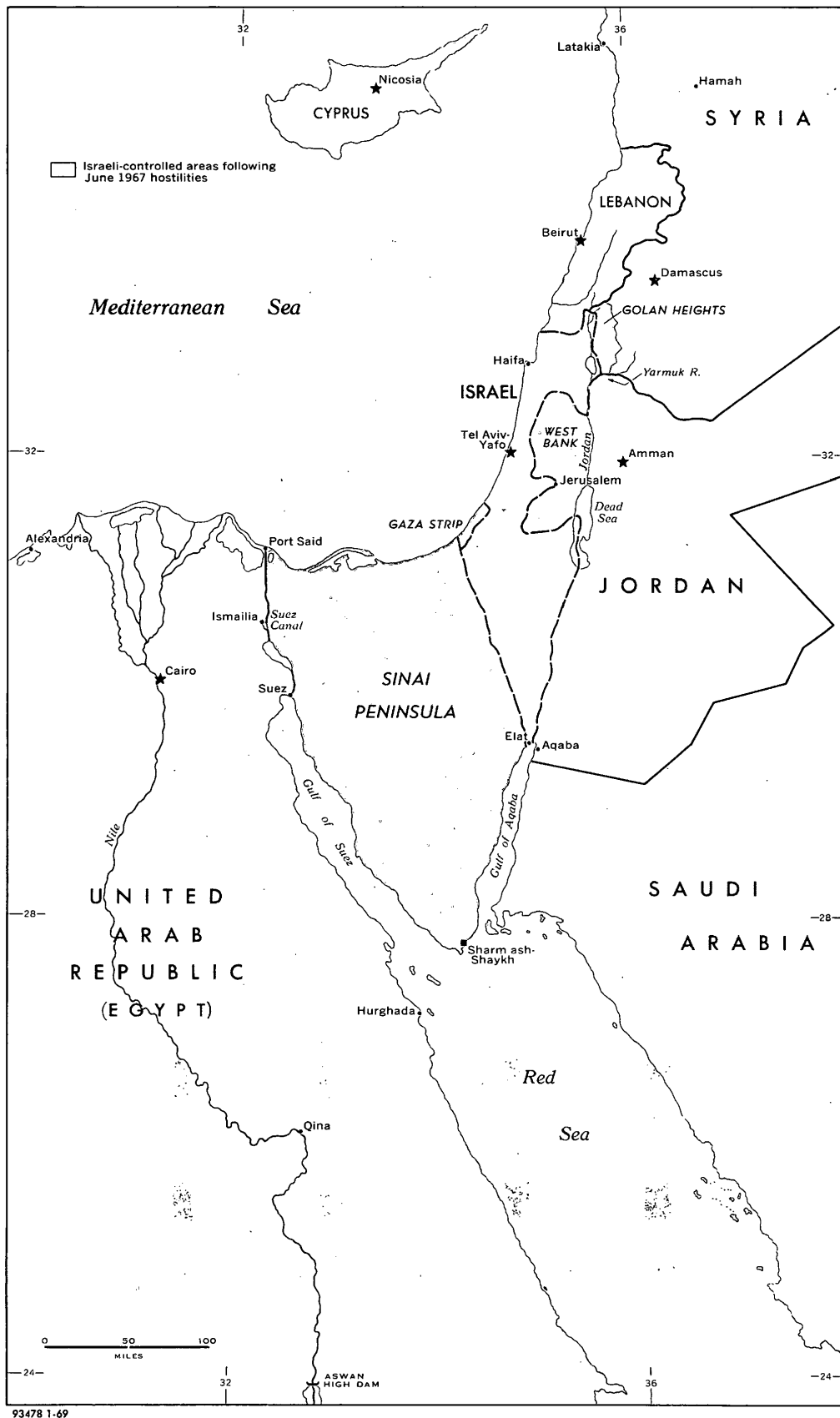


The President's Daily Brief

11 February 1969

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LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF

11 FEBRUARY 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

12 February 1969

LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF
11 FEBRUARY 1969

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

The Indians and the Yugoslavs are pressing Egypt to resume diplomatic relations with the US, but Cairo does not seem quite ready. According to the chief of the US Interest Section, the Indian ambassador was told by a Cairo Foreign Office official Monday that the crucial development Egypt was waiting for was the upcoming conversation between President Nixon and De Gaulle.

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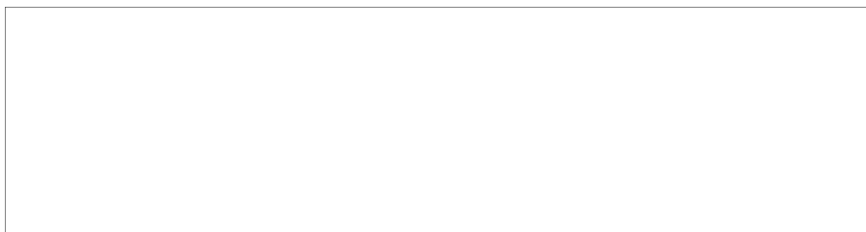
EUROPE



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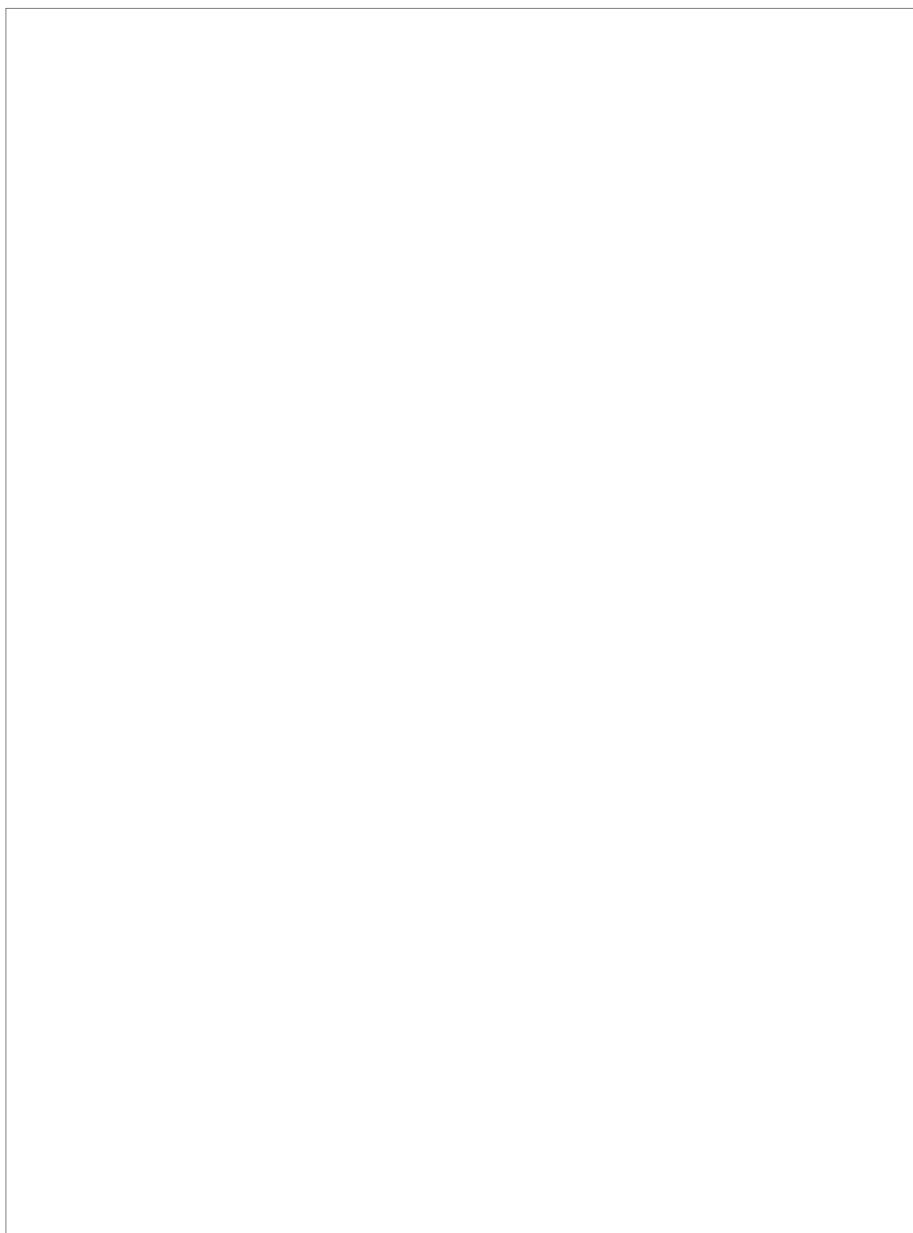
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SOVIET AFFAIRS

There is nothing significant to report.

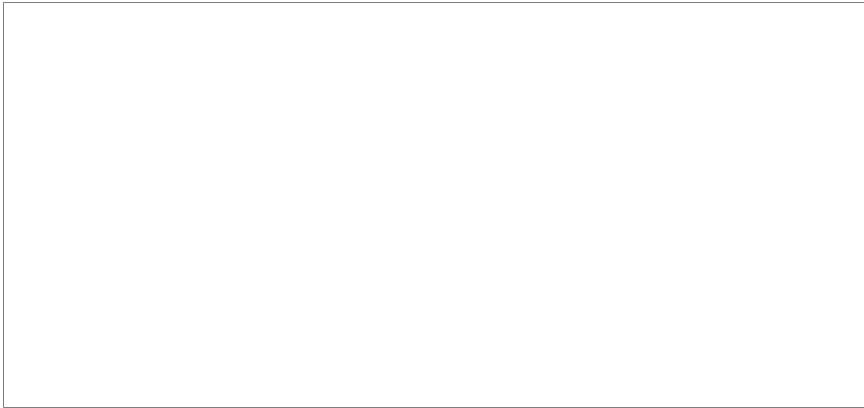
VIETNAM

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

There is nothing significant to report.

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

Prime Minister Eshkol beat back with no difficulty a no confidence motion by right wing critics who were upset by his statement to Newsweek that Israel was not interested in holding on to heavily Arab-populated areas of the West Bank. Eshkol's statement does not reveal any Israeli "giveaway" on the territories. The motion by the right-wingers--some of whom want Israel to hold on to all the territories--reflects the touchiness of the territorial issue in Israel, and indicates the difficulties Eshkol faces in moving toward a settlement in an election year.

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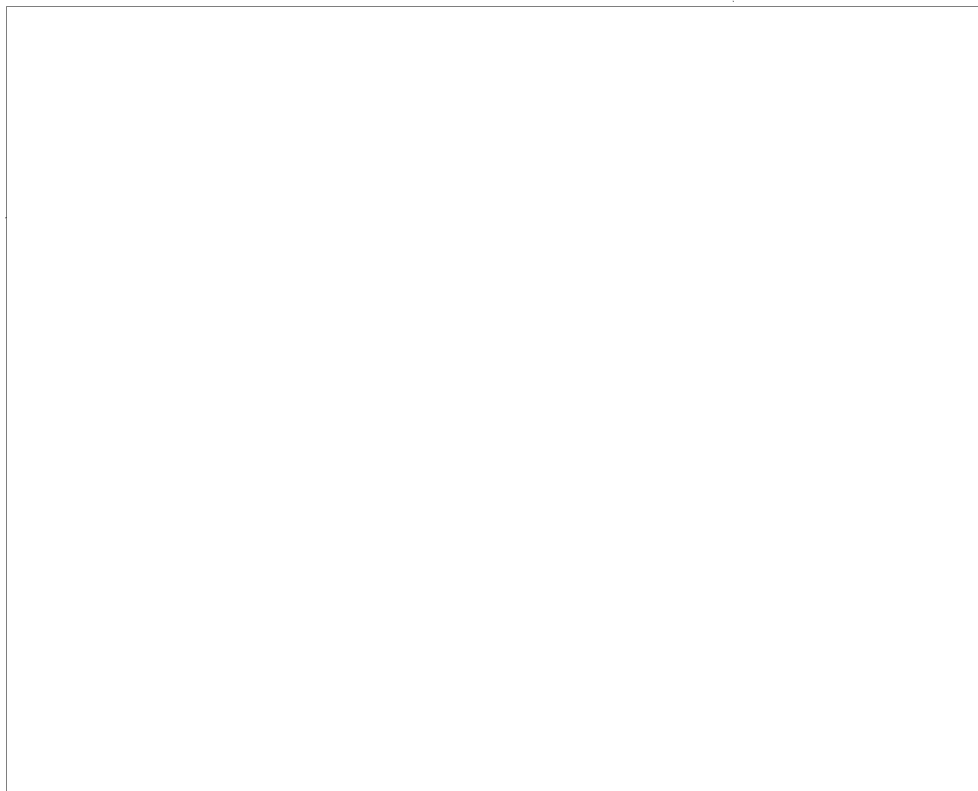
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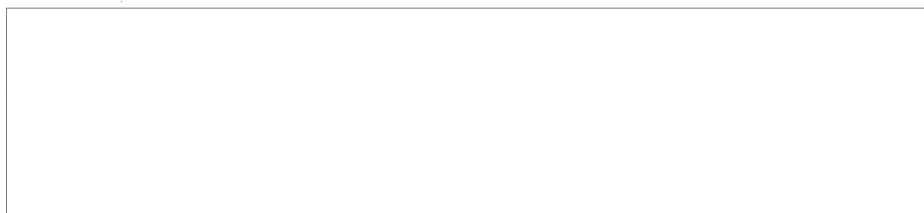
EUROPE

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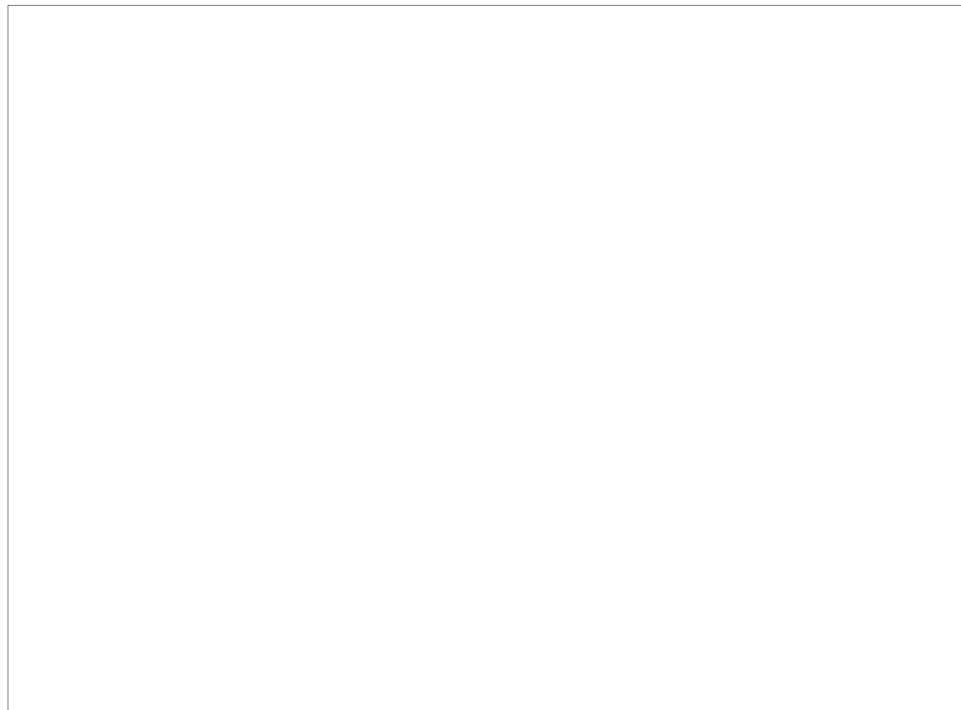


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The 30-odd Viet Cong battalions in the Mekong Delta are capable of making a significant contribution to any upcoming Communist offensive. The enemy command apparatus in the region has demonstrated its ability to launch corps-wide coordinated mortar attacks on several occasions since Tet 1968. The threat of major Communist ground assaults in the delta has increased in recent weeks as sizable enemy formations have shifted closer to prime target areas. Multi-battalion Viet Cong concentrations continue to hold their positions near My Tho and other urban centers in the northern delta and relatively close to Can Tho, farther south.

A number of low-level prisoner [redacted] reports allege that the Communists will use these forces in attacks against

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delta cities in the near future. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Allied sweep operations appear to be having some success in spoiling Communist attack preparations. At least two Viet Cong battalions, for example, apparently were pushed back from Can Tho last week by ARVN units.

* * *

The Communists stepped up the pace of their military action during the past 24 hours, shelling several urban centers and allied bases stretching from Da Nang southward to the Mekong Delta.

At least four provincial capitals received enemy mortar and rocket fire, and one in the central highlands was subjected to a ground attack as well. The allied air base at Da Nang as well as a network of outlying bases in Tay Ninh Province were among the more significant military objectives struck by the Communists.

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

BELGIUM

Sometime after a Belgian cabinet meeting scheduled for 21 February, Foreign Minister Harmel plans to announce that Belgium recognizes Peking as the government of "continental China." The Belgians say that they will continue to support Taiwan in the UN and that they want to maintain relations with the Nationalists.

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NATIONALIST CHINA

The defense ministry is engaged again in plans for small-scale sabotage operations against mainland China. Such planning occurs sporadically, but the few missions that go beyond the study stage are generally ineffective because of inept planning and the alertness of Chinese security forces.

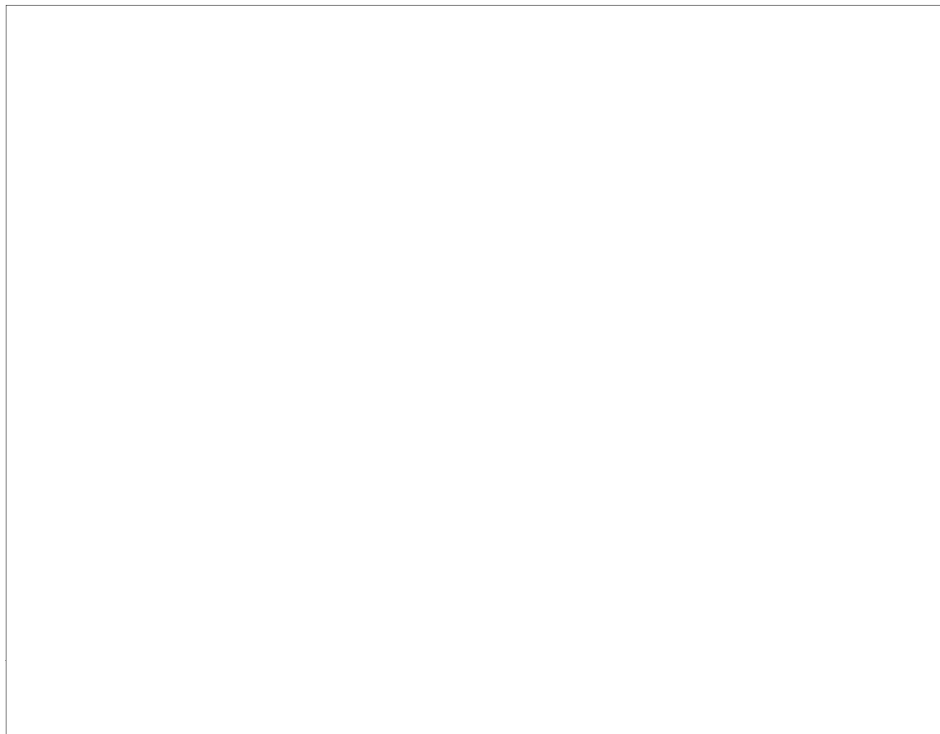
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If the Nationalists should carry out some operation from Hong Kong, Peking would no doubt hold the British there responsible and demand that they prevent such activities in the future. The Burmese have always been highly concerned about repercussions from use of their territory by the Nationalists.

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